

## Extension of Remarks

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. *Farr*).

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight, I have been watching this on TV and listening all day long. I am really kind of saddened by the fact that it seems to be an issue between making excuses for why we are in Iraq, and the other side is cut and run.

I remember being in the Congress before we voted on this resolution. I remember being summoned into a hearing with all of the intelligence agencies there. I remember a colleague asking these intelligence agencies, is Iraq an immediate threat to the United States, yes or no? Every single one of those intelligence agencies represented, every one said no.

And here we are 3 years later with all of the loss of life. Some say, just stay the course. Stay the course for what? There is not even a plan. Mr. *Weldon* was right, we had a plan in Kosovo, we had a plan in Bosnia, we had plans. Where is the plan?

We have a plan by Mr. *Murtha*. There is no cut and run date in it. There are no specifics on it. But it is a plan. Why are we not debating a plan?

It is embarrassing that we are here this far into the war, people watching us and having Congress without the ability to exercise democracy, without the ability to have a vote on the only resolution that is ready for a vote, which is Mr. *Murtha's*. I associate myself with the remarks he made about what he saw and what we experienced going into Iraq.

I wish the majority in this House would have allowed a debate on Mr. *Murtha's* resolution.

I rise to associate myself with the remarks of Mr. **MURTHA** and to everyone who supports our men and women in uniform. We all support the troops and the sacrifices they and their families have made. But, that's not what this debate is about.

I've been listening all day to this debate and find Members are still making excuses for why we got into Iraq in the first place.

You are not hearing what the intelligence community really told this house.

Before the vote on authorization of the war all the intelligence agencies were gathered together for a Congressional briefing. One of my colleagues asked the question:

“Is Iraq an immediate threat to the United States, tell us Yes ..... or No?”

It was surprising to me that each intelligence community representative said—"No, Iraq is not a threat to our national security."

And even more shocking to see was that so few of my colleagues were listening.

So, why have we been sucked into a war that was not necessary to protect our national security?

And here we are 3 years later. Over 20,000 U.S. military personnel have been killed or wounded in Iraq.

The loss of American lives is tragic and unnecessary.

Especially because Iraq never was a threat to the United States, nor is it now.

So, today, why aren't we discussing an end to wasteful spending, to unnecessary loss of lives and building a stronger America?

We can't because, as you have heard so often today, the majority has stopped listening.

They have made up their minds. They are just as wrong today as they were 3 years ago.

Look--we need a plan. Congressman Murtha is the only one with a plan. Congressman Murtha's bill, H.J. Res 73, is doable and its implementation would be respected by the rest of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President is listening to this debate. And more importantly I hope he implements the Murtha plan.

The world would be better off for it.